

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,371

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO, OSAMU

Examiner

Faye Polyzos

Art Unit

2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to submission on 2 February 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 4-7.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/2/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Comment on Submissions

1. This communication is responsive to submissions 2 February 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 4-7 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a radiographic apparatus wherein the plurality of areas, selected so that an amount of scattered rays passing through the plurality of areas and entering the imaging unit, are composed of different materials.

The examiner notes that while it is known in the art for a radiographic apparatus comprising: an imaging unit for converting a radiation image of an object (502) into an image signal; and a shield member (301) for shielding the imaging unit from scattered rays arising inside the radiographic apparatus from radiation passing through the imaging unit, the shield member including a plurality of areas, wherein the thickness of each area differs, in which either a radiation transmittivity or a radiation scattering probability, or both, differs (*see for example – Kaifu et al -- US 6,528,796 B1 -- Figs. 1, 4-5 and col. 4, lines 64-67 and col. 5, lines 53-67 and col. 6, lines 1-5*) and the radiation transmittivity of the plurality of areas is selected so that an amount of scattered rays passing through the plurality of areas and entering the imaging unit is uniform (*see for example – Kaifu et al -- US 6,528,796 B1 -- Fig. 5 and col. 5, lines 53-67 and col. 6, lines 1-5*), the prior art does not suggest of the radiographic apparatus' shield member

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includes a plurality of areas wherein the plurality of areas compose different materials for radiation transmittivity or radiation scattering.

The remaining claims 4-7 are allowable based on their dependency.


Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Polyzos whose telephone number is 571-272-2447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FP


DAVID PORTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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